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PLANTS FOR INFORMAL SCREEN, BARRIER OR BOUNDARY PLANTINGS

One of the commonest problems confronting owners of small city or suburban properties is that of providing adequate screen, barrier or boundary plantings with a minimum loss of space. While fences, walls, trelliage and other structural features will serve the purpose most conservatively from the space standpoint, many prefer using a living wall of green such as that afforded by trees, shrubs or the two in combination. The selection of available plants suitable for the purpose is extensive, but if clipping is to be kept to a minimum only careful choice and patience, for many of them are slow growing, will insure the desired results.

To rate consideration as a screening subject a plant should have a close, compact habit of growth, preferably with branches extending down to the ground line, be of twiggly texture with closely knit or interlacing branches, and possess overlapping foliage of sufficient density to provide a good screen. If it remains effective the year around, fine. The conifers with evergreen foliage naturally meet this requirement, but any deciduous plants to qualify would have to be early leafing and retentive of their foliage until late in the fall. It is equally obvious that the ideal screen plant should be reasonably fast growing, reliably hardy, adaptable to local soil and moisture conditions and resistant to insects and diseases. That it should also be attractive in appearance is assumed. A barrier planting to deter trespassing and other undesirable traffic would, in addition to meeting the qualifications just outlined, perhaps provide an additional obstacle in the form of thorny branches and a more impenetrable habit of growth. A planting done for the sole purpose of marking a boundary, however, permits greater latitude as regards selection, any material meeting the planter's requirements as to ultimate size, growth rate, density and ornamental interest being potentially usable.

The amount of space available will dictate whether the screen, barrier or boundary shall consist of a single row of plants of the same kind or a studied grouping of materials arranged so as to provide both an interesting silhouette as well as a harmonious blending of sizes, shapes, textures and colors. An arrangement of the latter type obviously requires

considerably more space than the single row planting, which in some instances may be kept as narrow as 5 feet. To do a mixed border successfully at least three times this spacing must be available to provide the necessary depth.

Tabulated below are some trees and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, considered worthy as possible subjects for screen, barrier or boundary plantings.

PLANTS OF NARROW GROWTH

Trees

Deciduous

Columnar Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides columnare* (to 25 ft high, 3 ft. through)

Upright branched, columnar variety requiring a minimum of trimming.

Erect Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides erectum* (syn. *ascendens*) (to 30 ft. high, 8-10 ft. wide).

Erect branched variety of narrow pyramidal habit with dense, dark green foliage.

Sentry Maple, *Acer saccharum monumentale* (to 20 ft. high, 2 ft. wide).

Slow grower of very narrow habit with almost parallel sides; foliage colors attractively in autumn

Pyramidal European White Birch, *Betula pendula fastigiata* (to 20 ft. high, 5-6 ft. through).

Narrow fastigate variety with upsweeping branches and dense, bushy foliage; moderately fast growing though not long lived.

Columnar European Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus columnaris* (to 15-20 ft. high, 4-5 ft. through).

Bushy, narrow columnar variety with twiggy branches; foliage persistent throughout the winter; slow growing; requires little trimming.

Pyramidal European Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus fastigiata* (to 20 ft. tall, 6 ft. through).

A broader tree forming a compact, narrow pyramid; foliage persistent; slow growing; requires little trimming.

Pyramidal American Hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana pyramidale* (to 18 ft. tall, 5 ft. through).

Erect branched, bushy variety of slender habit; fall foliage color attractive.

Pyramidal Washington Hawthorn, *Crataegus phaenopyrum fastigiata* (to 30 ft. tall, 10 ft. wide).

Columnar tree of twiggy texture with decorative white flowers, fine textured glossy foliage and Chinese red fruit; very tolerant of clipping.

Columnar Siberian Crabapple, *Malus baccata columnaris* (to 25 ft. tall, 4-5 ft. wide).

Erect branched variety of the white flowered Siberian Crabapple; foliage moderately dense.

Strathmore Crabapple, *Malus Strathmore* (to 20 ft.?).

Narrow, upright branched tree with rose pink flowers and ornamental reddish tinged foliage.

Pyramidal Simon Poplar, *Populus simoni fastigiata* (to 30 ft. tall, 10 ft. wide).

Fast growing, narrow pyramidal poplar of dense habit; harder than the well known Lombardy but subject to the same insects and diseases.

Pyramidal English Oak, *Quercus robur fastigiata* (to 40 ft. tall, 10 ft. through).

Slender columnar tree with dark green foliage which persists until late in the fall; one of the best of its class.

Erect Black Locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia erecta* (to 25 ft. tall?, from 5 to 20 ft. through).

Fast growing, erect branched tree with dark foliage; subject to borer infestation.

Pyramidal Bigleaf Linden, *Tilia platyphyllos pyramidalis* (to 25 ft. tall, 10 ft. wide).

Narrow pyramidal variety with dense, somewhat coarse foliage.

Evergreen

Pyramidal White Fir, *Abies concolor pyramidalis* (25 ft. tall, 6 ft. wide).

Slow growing narrow conical variety of the decorative, silvery needled White Fir.

Columnar Chinese Juniper, *Juniperus chinensis columnaris* (25 ft. tall, 6 ft. through).

A narrow columnar, ascending branched variety with very prickly gray green needles; a good barrier plant.

Cypress Spruce, *Picea Abies cupressina* (25 ft. tall, 3½ ft. through).

Fastigate branches paralleling the main trunk give this slender spruce an even outline; foliage moderately dense.

Swiss Stone Pine, *Pinus cembra* (to 30 ft.? tall, 8 ft. through).

A slow growing narrow pyramidal (until maturity) species with dense fine textured silvery needles.

Pyramidal White Pine, *Pinus strobus fastigiata* (to 30 ft. tall, 10 ft. through).

An ascending branched variety of our native White Pine; needles fine textured and of moderate density.

Pyramidal Scotch Pine, *Pinus sylvestris fastigiata* (to 12-15 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide).

Fastigate variety forming a narrow spire-like column of blue green.

Compact Douglas Fir, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia "compact form"* (15 ft. tall, 10 ft. through).

A very compact broad pyramidal fir of extremely dense habit.

Wintergreen Pyramidal Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis nigra* (to 20 ft. tall, 5 ft. through).

A broad spire-like Arborvitae which retains its dark green coloring throughout the year; prefers a moist location.

SHRUBS

Deciduous

Erect Border Privet, *Ligustrum obtusifolium erecta* (to 8 ft. tall, 3 ft. through).

More erect in habit than the type with dense, lustrous green foliage.

Tallhedge Columnar Buckthorn, *Rhamnus frangula columnaris* (to 12 ft. tall, 3-4 ft. wide).

A tall, naturally narrow screen plant with glossy green foliage and attractive multicolored fruit; requires little shearing.

Evergreen

Hatfield Anglojap Yew, *Taxus media hatfieldi* (to 10 ft. tall, 6-8 ft. wide).

A dense habit of growth distinguishes this fine, broad pyramidal yew; shade tolerant.

Hicks Anglojap Yew, *Taxus media hicksi* (to 10 ft. tall, 6-8 ft. wide).

The most widely planted of the ascending branched yews; clips perfectly and tolerates shade.

PLANTS OF WIDER GROWTH
(requiring more clipping to keep them restrained)

TREES

Deciduous

Amur Maple, *Acer ginnala* (to 20 ft. tall, 20 ft. across)

Dense foliated, round topped tree of uniform outline; fall color brilliant; withstands clipping well.

Pyramidal Singleseed Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna stricta* (to 20 ft. tall, 12 ft. spread).

A narrow pyramidal variety which broadens with age into an oval pyramidal tree; foliage dark green, fine textured.

Anise Magnolia, *Magnolia salicifolia* (25 ft. tall, 15 ft. spread).

A densely foliated fastigiate branched Magnolia developing into a shapely, rather narrow pyramid; early flowering; resents clipping.

Evergreen

Dwarf White Pine, *Pinus strobus nana* (to 6 ft. tall, 6 ft. broad).

An almost globular conifer with extremely dense tufted foliage; slow growing; requires no clipping.

Waterer Scotch Pine, *Pinus sylvestris watereri* (8 to 10 ft. tall, 12 ft. through).

A miniature Scotch Pine densely pyramidal to rounded in habit with attractive blue green needles.

Japanese Yew, *Taxus cuspidata* (to 10 ft. tall, 10 ft. through).

The best conifer for shade planting; foliage very dark green; red fruit showy; tolerates close clipping.

SHRUBS

Five-leaf Aralia, *Acanthopanax sieboldiana* (to 6 ft.)

Densely foliated thorny hedging material adaptable to dry soils and part shade; tolerates city conditions very well.

Glossy Chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa elata* (to 8 ft.)

Erect bush valued for its white flowers, profuse black fruit and glossy foliage assuming brilliant red autumn tints.

Mentor Barberry, *Berberis mentorensis* (to 6 ft.)

A bushy, compact growing barberry with persistent dark green foliage turning purplish red late in the fall; requires little shearing; a fine barrier plant.

Winged Euonymus, *Euonymus alata* (8 to 10 ft.)

The horizontal branches, closely knit corky winged twigs and dense foliage of this excellent Euonymus insure an impenetrable hedge; fall foliage color brilliant rose pink.

Compact Winged Euonymus, *Euonymus alata compacta* (to 6 ft.)

A more compact round headed variety with brighter, deeper red fall color; more leggy at base than the type.

European Euonymus, *Euonymus europaea* (to 12 ft.)

Erect, rounded shrub of exceptional compactness; foliage dense, dark green turning reddish purple in autumn; orange fruit showy; tolerates shade, heavy soil.

Winter Honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima* (to 8 ft.)

An arching branched shrub with thick, semi-evergreen foliage; produces fragrant flowers in April; will tolerate light shade.

Late Honeysuckle, *Lonicera maacki podocarpa* (to 15 ft.)

This tall, spreading branched honeysuckle is valued for its late white flowers, late red fruit and persistent dark green foliage; requires considerable space for development.

Red Flowered Tatarian Honeysuckle, *Lonicera tatarica zabeli* (to 8 ft.).

A shapely upright bush with blue green foliage and bright red flowers and fruit; fast growing.

Mountain Ninebark, *Physocarpus monogynus* (to 5 ft.).

A uniformly shaped twiggy bush of naturally compact habit with fine textured foliage; requires no clipping.

Glossy Buckthorn, *Rhamnus frangula* (to 12 ft.)

This most vigorous buckthorn is of upright growth and notable for its glossy green foliage and decorative fruit; very tolerant of soils and exposures.

Buckthorn species, *Rhamnus pallasi* (to 6 ft.).

A natural interlacing branching habit is an attribute of this compact, narrow leaved buckthorn; slow growing.

Chinese Lilac, *Syringa chinensis* (to 12 ft.).

Although requiring considerable space, the small leaved Chinese Lilac is a dependable free flowering screen plant; may be clipped if necessary.

Common Lilac, *Syringa vulgaris* (to 12-15 ft.)

Dense foliage extending all the way to the ground line makes the common lilac a good screen plant; vigorous pruning, which may effect flowering, is often necessary to keep it in bounds.

Arrowwood Viburnum, *Viburnum dentatum* (to 10-12 ft.)

While erect in its branching habit this Viburnum ultimately develops a rounded head; apt to appear open at the base; noted for its white flowers, blue fruit and brilliant reddish purple fall color; shade tolerant.

Wayfaringtree Viburnum, *Viburnum lantana* (to 10-15 ft.).

Rounded gray green foliage, white flowers and conspicuous pink, red and black fruit provide a pleasing ornamental interest; bush rounded and widespreading in growth.

Lantanaphyllum Viburnum, *Viburnum rhytidophylloides* (to 10 ft.).

Long persistent leathery green foliage gives this hybrid Viburnum special value as a screening material; of moderately dense growth; flowers and fruit decorative.

Note: The ultimate spread of most of the shrubs listed above will equal or exceed the stated heights. Growing conditions, spacing, natural habit etc. are the chief influencing factors.

E. L. Kammerer



Screen Planting of Pyramidal English Oak (*Quercus robur fastigiata*) ten years after planting. Four to five foot plants spaced one foot apart were used. They are presently 25 ft. tall.

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